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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

December 01, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5132 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KPAO
Captions: None
Subject: UAEG, IRAQI EXPATS, WELCOME VISITING IRAQ GOVERNING
COUNCIL DELEGATION
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 05132

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M PAO ECON
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INFO: PAO

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RAALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: NONE

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2550
INFO RHMFISS/HQ COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTH BAGHDAD
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J2/UNMA//
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RUCJACC/USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2//

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 005132

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STATE ALSO FOR NEA/NGA, NEA/PD AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/29/13
TAGS: [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAEG, Iraqi expats, welcome visiting Iraq
Governing Council delegation

Ref: Abu Dhabi 4835

(U) Classified by Richard A. Albright, Charge d'Affaires,
a.i., for Reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

1. (U) The UAE leadership once again put out the welcome

mat for members of the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) during their visit to Abu Dhabi last week. President Shaykh Zayed told the delegation November 26 that the UAE would always support the Iraqi people and called on Iraqis to work together to overcome their hardships. According to the government's official news agency, Shaykh Zayed told the delegation that he had advised the United States to treat the Iraqis gently and strive to hand over power to them as soon as possible.

¶2. (C) Two days earlier, on November 24, approximately 300 members of the Iraqi expatriate community in the UAE had met with IGC members Ibrahim Al Jaafari and Adnan Pachachi to learn about latest trends in Iraq and to discuss their concerns. The meeting, which two Iraqi liaison office staff had also attended, was in stark contrast to meetings Iraqi expats had had with Saddam's representatives in recent years -- if they even bothered to go.

¶3. (C) Polchief and senior PAO FSN met November 29 with two Iraqi expats who are regular contacts of ours (see reftel) to get a readout of the meeting with Al Jaafari. Dr. Ala'a Al-Tamimi, a former senior official in the Iraqi Ministry of Industry, and Dr. Niazi Sadiq, a surgeon, told us that they were very favorably impressed with Al Jaafari's leadership and intellectual abilities. "We're proud that he is representing the Iraqi people. The Baathists were ignorant and ill-tempered," Ala'a said. Members of the audience could ask questions and identified themselves without fear. Al Jaafari told the audience that there remained some security problems in Iraq, but people were free to speak their minds. When a member of the audience criticized some members of the Iraqi liaison office staff of being Baathists and supporters of Saddam, Al Jaafari urged his listeners to be patient with those who are Baathists, but who have not committed any crimes. However, if they are Baathists and are criminals, "we'll deal with them."

¶4. (C) The expats told us that the Baathists outside of Iraq, including Saddam's former Information Minister Sahhaf, who regularly appears on Abu Dhabi Television, are well-financed and organized, and have access to the media. Ala'a and Niazi said Baathists go as far as saying that "Saddam was bad, but the U.S. is worse" in a bid to win sympathy and encourage resistance to the Coalition. Non-Baathists are increasingly trying to counter the influence of Baathists by trying to persuade the Arabic language press to cease reporting only negative and anti-American articles and editorials. Ala'a and Niazi said they hope the CPA will be able to assist with starting up an Iraqi satellite television station that will provide objective broadcasts both inside and outside Iraq.

ALBRIGHT